



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

DRAWING A CROSS TO AVERT ILL-LUCK. — An acquaintance of mine, in Kentucky, whenever she had occasion to retrace her steps after having started from home to walk in a particular direction, was in the habit of drawing a cross on the ground with her foot. This action was supposed to avert the ill-luck which would otherwise have followed. Why is it supposed to be unlucky to turn back? (General Grant, I believe, had this superstition.) And how does the cross on the ground avert it?

Elizabeth M. Howe.

TEST FOR WITCHCRAFT IN NEW JERSEY, 1730. — In the course of preparing vol. xi. of the New Jersey Archives, to consist of extracts from old newspapers, I have met with the following curious account of what was probably the last judicial test for witchcraft.

Thomas Nelson.

PATERSON, N. J.

OFFICE — *Burlington, Oct 12.* — Saturday last at *Mount-Holly*, about 8 Miles from this Place, near 300 People were gathered together to see an Experiment or two tried on some Persons accused of Witchcraft. It seems the Accused had been charged with making their Neighbours Sheep dance in an uncommon Manner, and with causing Hogs to speak, and sing Psalms, etc., to the great Terror and Amazement of the King's good and peaceable Subjects in this Province, and the Accusers being very positive that if the Accused were weighed in Scales against a Bible, the Bible would prove too heavy for them; or that, if they were bound and put into the River, they would swim; the said Accused desirous to make their Innocence appear, voluntarily offered to undergo the said Trials, if 2 of the most violent of their Accusers would be tried with them. Accordingly the Time and Place was agreed on, and advertised about the Country; The Accusers were 1 Man and 1 Woman; and the Accused the same. The Parties being met, and the People got together, a grand Consultation was held, before they proceeded to Trial; in which it was agreed to use the Scales first; and a Committee of Men were appointed to search the Men, and a Committee of Women to search the Women, to see if they had any Thing of Weight about them, particularly Pins. After the Scrutiny was over, a huge great Bible belonging to the Justice of the Place was provided, and a Lane through the Populace was made from the Justices House to the Scales, which were fixed on a Gallows erected for that Purpose opposite to the House, that the Justice's Wife and the rest of the Ladies might see the Trial without coming amongst the Mob; and after the Manner of *Moorfields*, a large Ring was also made. Then came out of the House a grave tall Man carrying the Holy Writ before the supposed Wizard, etc. (as solemnly as the Sword-bearer of *London* before the Lord Mayor). The Wizard was first put in the Scale, and over him was read a Chapter out of the Books of *Moses*, and then the Bible was put in the other Scale (which being kept down before) was immediately let go; but to great Surprise of the Spectators, Flesh and Bones came down plump, and outweighed that great Book by abundance. After the same Manner, the others were served,